Conference of OIC

3881. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proceedings of the conference of OIC held recently in Malaysia;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware of the distinction made by the OIC between legitimate freedom struggle waged by the Palestinian people against the occupation by the Israeli Armed forces and terrorism;

(c) if so, whether Government are in agreement with such a view; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government supports the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to a homeland and believes that a viable Palestinian state and Israel have a right to exist within secure and internationally recognized borders. In India's view, Israeli occupation must end. India condemns all acts of violence in all its forms and manifestations and believes that there is no justification for such acts.

Violation of UN Resolutions by Israel

3882. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the violations of UN resolution by Israel in West Bank and rest of the Palestinian territory;

(b) if so, whether Government have been in touch with that country and pointed out such violations;

(c) if so, the response thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) There are some UN Security Council Resolutions which call upon Israel to vacate occupied Arab territories. These Resolutions have not yet been implemented. Government have always impressed upon Israel to implement these UN Security Council Resolutions. Government of Israel have stated that final status of these territories is subject matter of negotiations between the parties concerned.

Pressures on Israel to withdraw from West Bank

3883. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what diplomatic pressure has been exerted on Israel Government to withdraw from the occupied land of palestine, *i.e.*, West Bank and Gaza Strip; and

(b) the role played by Government to free Yasir Arafat from the siege of Ramallah by Israeli army; and allow him to act democratically from his Headquarter at Ramallah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Government of India have had contacts with the Israeli leadership on recent developments in West Bank & Gaza Strip. Government issued several statements reflecting nationwide concern at the serious deterioration of the security situation in the region and conveyed support to UN Security Council Resolutions 1397, 1402, 1403 & 1405. Amongst others, these Resolutions called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian areas.

(b) Arrangements have been finalized to lift the siege on President Yasir Arafat and once these arrangements have been put in place, President Yasir Arafat will be free to move. During President Arafat's siege in Ramallah, Government was concerned about his health and well-being and had declared that President Arafat represented the authority of the Palestinian people, and to subject him to this treatment is to denude the Palestinians of the sense of